

## Father of Accused Pilot Plans a Visit to Europe

Associated Press

The father of the Virginia pilot Francis G. Powers, held as a spy by Soviet Russia, took the first step yesterday toward a possible visit to Europe as the guest of an anonymous Richmond man.

Oliver W. Powers, 55, of Pound in Wise County went to Federal District Court in Abingdon to apply for a passport to Paris.

Powers, willing to undertake the trip "on the chance it might help," said he was ready to offer himself in the place of his son, Francis, 30.

Sen. A. Willis Robertson (D-Va.) obtained assurance from the State Department it would act "promptly and favorably" on Powers' passport application as long as he undertook the trip on a personal basis. A spokesman said the State Department would not sponsor Powers' trip.

But after learning of the collapse of Summit talks in Paris, Powers said he believed there would be no point in his going there. He added, he would look into the possibility of going to Russia to see his son or attempt to exchange himself for his son.

"I would like to go see my boy if they'll permit me to get there and back or let me stay there and send my son back home," the father said.

The Richmond man, who prefers anonymity, said several facts had prompted him to suggest a quick trip to Paris by the father.

"When Khrushchev was in this country," he said, "he gave one man a watch and helped another family to get together. It seems to me he

has a heart and does humanitarian things now and then, perhaps when it suits his purpose. Mr. Powers said he was a miner for many years and so was Khrushchev.

"If Mr. Powers went to Paris while Khrushchev was there, he just might have a chance to see Khrushchev face to face and talk it over. It might help. At least it wouldn't hurt. It would give the Powers family peace of mind after all their son has done for the United States.

Powers, a coal miner for 15 years, now operates a shoe repair business in Norton, 15 miles from his Pound home in Southwest Virginia.